



Chair/James Gmeiner
Vice Chair/Thomas Orcutt
Clerk/Michael Bouchard

Town of Groton Sewer Department

173 Main Street
Groton MA 01450

Date: March 29th, 2023
Time: 2:00 PM

Members Virtually Present: Chair/James Gmeiner
Vice Chair/Thomas Orcutt
Clerk/Michael Bouchard

Others Virtually Present: Eric McGranahan/Resident, Ann Livezey/Assistant, Lauren Croy/Business Manager and Judy Anderson/Resident

The Meeting was called to order by James Gmeiner at 2:00 PM

Abatement 64 Champney Street

Mr. McGranahan told the BOSC that his hot water tank recently let go and he was charged for 144 water units which is significantly higher than his normal use of 14-units. He said the house was built in 1870 and the water heater is on a partially dirt/stone basement floor and the water flowed down through the dirt. The water heater has been replaced and the issue has been resolved and asked if the BOSC would consider a one-time abatement to help reduce the inflated sewer charges.

Mr. Orcutt made a motion to abate 130 water units for 64 Champney Street, Mr. Bouchard seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner – Aye, Orcutt – Aye and Bouchard-Aye

2:15 P.M. Public Hearing – Assessors Map 234, Lot 55-1 Sewer Extension

The public hearing was opened by Mr. Gmeiner at 2:15 p.m. and Mr. Bouchard read the following Article:

Notice of Public Hearing

In accordance with Chapter 83 of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Town of Groton Sewer Regulations, and the Policy and Guidelines for a Submission to Extend Sewer District, the Groton Sewer Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 29th, 2023 at 2:15 P.M. via Virtual Meeting using Zoom Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order to consider a proposed sewer extension to the property shown

on Assessors' Map 234, Lot 55-1. Please see Meeting posted at <https://www.grotonma.gov/events/> for details regarding Zoom meeting information.

Mr. Gmeiner told the BOSC that the homeowner sent an email that they will no longer be moving forward with this request.

Mr. Bouchard made a motion to close the Public Hearing at 2:19 p.m. Mr. Orcutt seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner -Aye, Orcutt - Aye Bouchard -Aye

Vote to Remove Article from Spring Town Meeting Warrant

Mr. Orcutt made a motion to remove the article that was submitted to extend the sewer district to the property shown on the Assessors' Map 234, Lot 55-1 and the secondary article regarding access to the Country Club, Mr. Bouchard seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner-Aye, Orcutt-Aye and Bouchard -Aye.

Mr. Gmeiner asked that this information be sent to the Town Manager.

Discussion of Impact of 500 Main Street proposed Development on Potential Nod Road Pump Upgrade

Mr. Bouchard said he got a request from Mr. Petropoulos who is on the ZBA but, after emailing with him he was informed the ZBA will do a peer review and does not need anything from us at this point. Mr. Gmeiner said Mr. Petropoulos recused himself from this matter and Mr. Orcutt said then this request would be considered from a regular member of the public.

Mr. Orcutt said when they do a peer review on the Water side, he wants to ask the Engineer for a scope and fee to do a review and have the developer put up the funds. He suggested we do the same for the Sewer.

Mr. Gmeiner said in regards to Mr. Bouchard's response he mentioned that "500 Main Street does not trigger the upgrade we are considering but that pump replacement needs to be done" is true. Mr. Bouchard said it is his understanding that the pumps are wearing out and need replacement and Mr. Gmeiner said "yes". We need the upgrade to deal with sewer requirements in the Center District beyond 500 Main Street. Mr. Gmeiner said the Board of Appeals will say no waivers for Water/Sewer and the BOSC will then deal with the developer. Mr. Gmeiner asked if the Board of Appeals with the 40B would come to us. and Mr. Orcutt said its up to us to reach out to the developer and the details were worked out and submitted in letter for to ZBA. Ms. Anderson told the BOSC she is on the Accessibility Commission and said they sent something in writing to the ZBA. Mr. Orcutt said we need to meet with the developer and submit to the ZBA.

Discussion of Adopting System Expansion Policy

Mr. Gmeiner told the BOSC to finish reviewing and we will approve at the next meeting

Pepperell IMA

Mr. Gmeiner told the BOSC we should be getting an updated version of the IMA with the edits we discussed.

Mr. Gmeiner spoke with Pepperell about the new CCTV camera and they are looking to buy a new one. He said the cost is \$100K and he spoke with Mr. Brinkman and if Groton puts up \$75K, Pepperell will go out and buy the camera and we would get a credit next year at the true up and it would be treated as a capital item and we will get some of that money back. He said we would have to bump up the transfer amount at town meeting to \$100K to cover the cost. Mr. Gmeiner feels he would like to do this sooner than later, that way during the next rain event Mr. Brinkman can get his crew out ASAP. Mr. Orcutt is in agreement and feels this is important and we need to move forward, Mr. Bouchard agreed.

201 Boston Road/Lindemer New House

Mr. Orcutt told the BOSC that Mr. Lindemer has paid the connection fee in full for the new house connection and he should be connecting the existing house at a later date and will owe a connection fee.

Review I&I Study

No discussion

Review Nod Road Pump Station and Flow Evaluation

Mr. Gmeiner met with Mr. Haddad and Mr. Rafferty and they agreed on \$85K for the design work, they cut out some meeting schedules that Mr. Rafferty thinks he can eliminate. Mr. Haddad will be paying for that under the ARPA funds and he will be keeping \$100K available for I&I work. Mr. Gmeiner said he would like to have that available for I&I remediation work. He said the upgrades should be \$300K-400K and Mr. Rafferty is hoping to get a pump that is more efficient, this way we would not need a whole new generator.

220 Main Street (Parish House) - Capacity

No Discussion

Expansion Limits

Mr. Orcutt said there was a project on Jenkins/Gratuity that was 40 units apartments and is now a different project with 17 duplexes with one 9 units and one 8 unit but they are going septic not town sewer.

Mr. Gmeiner said there is also an article for a rezoning, but unclear what the pickle ball place will be doing and if they will want sewer. Mr. Orcutt said he spoke with the developer and it was too short of notice and if they do it will be in the Fall. He said if it is rezoned commercial it may make the decision easier, but would still need the water resource commission approval.

Mr. Gmeiner had a conversation with Mr. Burke about the new MBTA zoning and he looked at NE Power land. Mr. Burke said in the small print, land that is own by public utility does not qualify so you cannot use the meet the commitment.

FY22 & FY23 Budget

Center Sewer District:

Ms. Crory said the rates and income look good and she will do a forecast.

Mr. Orcutt made a motion to transfer \$100K for miscellaneous expenses and the new CCTV camera, Mr. Bouchard seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Gmeiner – Aye, Orcutt-Aye and Bouchard -Ayer

Four Corners:

Ms. Crory will do a forecast for Four Corners.

Mr. Gmeiner suggested we do a Rate Hearing sometime at the end of April beginning of May for both Sewer Districts.

Commission Reorganization

No discussion

Other Business: Bills, Minutes, etc.

Mr. Gmeiner said the upgrades that Mr. Rafferty speaking of for the pump station will be \$300k-\$400k and he would like to make sure we have enough in reserves. He said we will be bringing them down a bit and should be able to generate when 500 Main is done. Mr. Orcutt asked if a short-term note should be done and Mr. Gmeiner said he liked that idea and it would allow us to keep more monies in reserve.

Mr. Bouchard asked if the ARPA money has restrictions and is only for I&I repairs or could we use it for the pump station. Mr. Gmeiner said it may be possible and would have to speak to Mr. Haddad.

Next Meeting – April 5th, 2023

BILLS SIGNED – No bills signed

MINUTES:

Mr. Bouchard made a motion to approve the minutes of March 1st as written and March 8th, 2023 as amended, Mr. Orcutt seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner – Aye, Orcutt- Aye and Bouchard - Aye

ADIOURN – *Mr. Orcutt made a motion to adjourn at 3:30 P.M. Mr. Bouchard seconded the motion. Roll Call Gmeiner –Aye Bouchard - Aye*

Respectfully submitted,

